

Wednesday, May 21, 2003

Duxbury Clipper

## Volunteers Create New Nature Trail

Over the past weekend nine members of the Community Garden Club and the Lands Committee of the Duxbury Rural & Historical Society joined forces to clear a new nature trail through the woodlands of the Historical Society's Gershom Bradford House property on Tremont Street.

Armed with chain saw and bow saws, loppers, clippers and a brush mower, the intrepid nine donned long shirts, trousers, hats and gloves, as protective clothing against encounters with green briar and poison ivy. Within hours, Chuck Walker, Lynn Smith, Heidi Pape Laird, Lois Jenner, Carol Langford, Barbara Kennedy, Holly Morris and Dick Rothschild cleared the half-mile path of all but small caliper vegetation, which was later mowed by Cap Kane with a brush mower.

Weeks earlier, the layout for the meandering trail had been finalized by Lynn Smith and Barbara Kennedy of the Garden Club and Dick Rothschild of the Rural & Historical Society's Lands Committee after consulting with Joe Grady, administrator of the Duxbury Conservation Commission. Over forty members of the Garden Club participated in conceptualizing and the preliminary design of the trail.

The nature trail will afford an intimate view of a vernal pool, continue alongside a tiny spring-fed stream, and weave through a stand of old pines and forest ground cover of lily of the valley, periwinkle and ferns. It will feature wildflowers collected and painted by



(L-R): Chuck Walker, Lynn Smith, Heidi Pape Laird, Lois Jenner and Holly Morris, work on the new nature trail. Not pictured Carol Langford, Barbara Gear Kennedy, Cap Kane, Dick Rothschild.

Captain Gershom Bradford's daughter, Elizabeth. Many of them were described in Dorothy Kelso's book, *Old Colony Wildflowers*, which was illustrated with photos by Charlotte Cory. Garden Club members working from March through October 2002, were able to identify and mark every wildflower in Elizabeth Bradford's original index. Unusual trees were also identified.

The Garden Club is seeking a grant to further develop the trail with wood-chip surfacing, discrete signage, plant identification and supplementary plantings where appropriate.

The DR&HS sees the nature trail as an added attraction to bring visitors to the historic Gershom Bradford House and grounds. The house, conceived by Captain Bradford while still at sea, was built after his return in 1808. It is filled with fascinating

belongings of the Captain, his wife Sarah, and their daughters, Maria, Lucia, Elizabeth and Charlotte.

The Gershom Bradford House is open to visitors this year on Sundays from 1-4 pm; June 15 until Aug. 31. The nature trail, when completed, will be open every day from dawn to dusk.